

Tobacco Use and Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults in 2004

Rhode Island Department of Health
Center for Health Data and Analysis
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Introduction

Information is presented here on health risks reported in 2004 among adult Rhode Islanders, comparing smokers with non-smokers. Data are from Rhode Island's Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS).

About the BRFSS: The BRFSS is a telephone survey administered in all 50 states and 4 U.S. territories with funding and specifications from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The BRFSS monitors the prevalence of behavioral health risk factors that contribute to the leading causes of disease and death among adults 18 years and older in the United States. Rhode Island has participated in the BRFSS since 1984.

Rhode Island's BRFSS: From January through December 2004, the Rhode Island BRFSS conducted approximately 333 random-digit dialed telephone interviews each month with adults 18 and older, for a total of 3,999 during the calendar year. The sample was comprised of 1,524 18-44 year olds, 1,588 45-64 year olds, and 837 who were 65 or older; 1,531 were males and 2,468 were females; 820 were current smokers (CS), while 3,168 were not current smokers (NCS). Rhode Island's 2004 survey was conducted by a professional survey organization under contract to the Rhode Island Department of Health.

In this Report: This report presents current smoking rates for demographic subgroups, and data for thirty health indicators by smoking status. "Error" bars represent the 95% confidence limits around the values calculated from the sample data. A 95% confidence limit means there is only a 5% chance that the true value is NOT included within the span of the error bar.

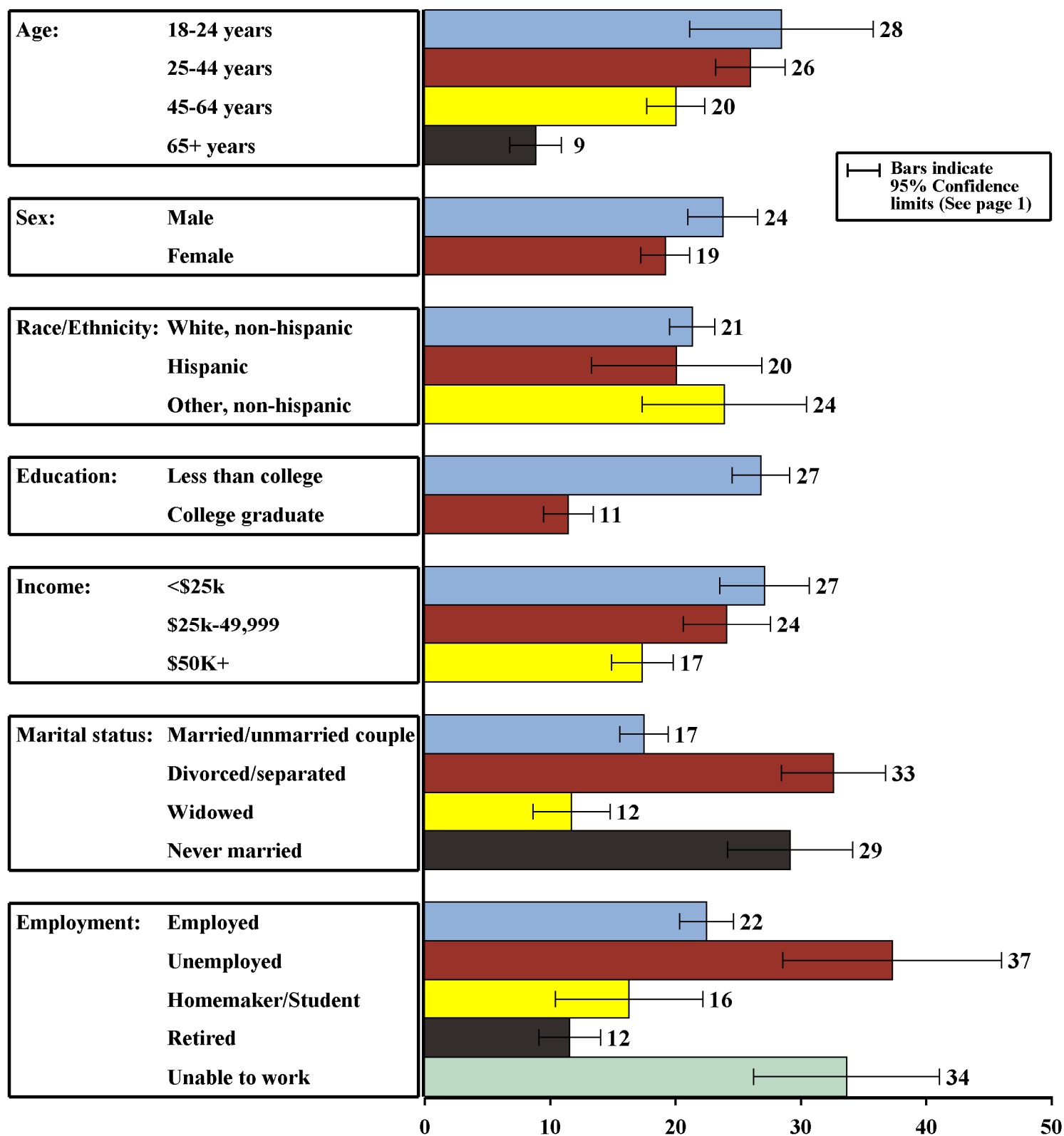


from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Go to <http://www.health.ri.gov/chic/statistics/brfss.php> and <http://www.health.ri.gov/webquery/index.html> for this report and other RI BRFSS data. For more information on methods, definitions, national or state data, go to CDC's BRFSS website <http://www.cdc.gov/brfss>, or contact the Center for Health Data and Analysis, RI Department of Health (401-222-2550). This report was prepared by Y Jiang, Ph.D. and JE Hesser, Ph.D.

Highlights

- ❖ 21% of Rhode Island adults were current smokers (CS) in 2004. Smoking rates vary among demographic subgroups, from 37% for the unemployed, to 9% for adults 65 and older. Smoking rates of 27% occur among those ages 18 – 44, those without a college degree, and those in households with annual incomes of \$25,000 or less. CS rates decrease with increasing age, income and education. About a third of those who are divorced or separated (33%), or unmarried (29%) are CS; more than a third of the unemployed (37%) or unable to work (34%) are CS. (Fig. 1).
- ❖ 3 out of 5 CS tried to quit smoking in the past year. While about three-fourths of NCS indicated that smoking is not allowed anywhere inside their home or indoor work areas this was true for about 40% of CS. 34% of CS have a sedentary life style vs. 21% of NCS; 14% of CS are chronic drinkers vs. 6% of NCS. Slightly more than half of CS and NCS are overweight. (Fig. 2)
- ❖ More than a third (37%) of CS over age 65 have had all their teeth extracted, twice the rate (17%) for NCS. More CS (19%) than NCS (14%) of all ages have had 6 or more teeth removed due to decay or gum disease, and 30% of CS vs. 19% of NCS have not seen a dentist in the past year. (Fig. 2)
- ❖ CS have higher rates than NCS for the 9 lack of health care access indicators. For example, 17% of CS vs. 8% of NCS ages 18-64 are uninsured; 54% of CS ages 50 and older have never been screened for colorectal cancer vs. 36% of NCS. 22% of CS vs. 12% of NCS have no regular health provider. (Figs. 2 and 3)
- ❖ Current smokers also fare less well than NCS on the 11 indicators for quality of life during the past 30 days. For instance, 15% of CS felt sad, blue, or depressed vs. 6% of NCS; 22% of CS felt worried, tense, or anxious vs. 11% of NCS; and 16% of CS said pain limits their usual activities, compared with 8% of NCS. (Fig. 3)

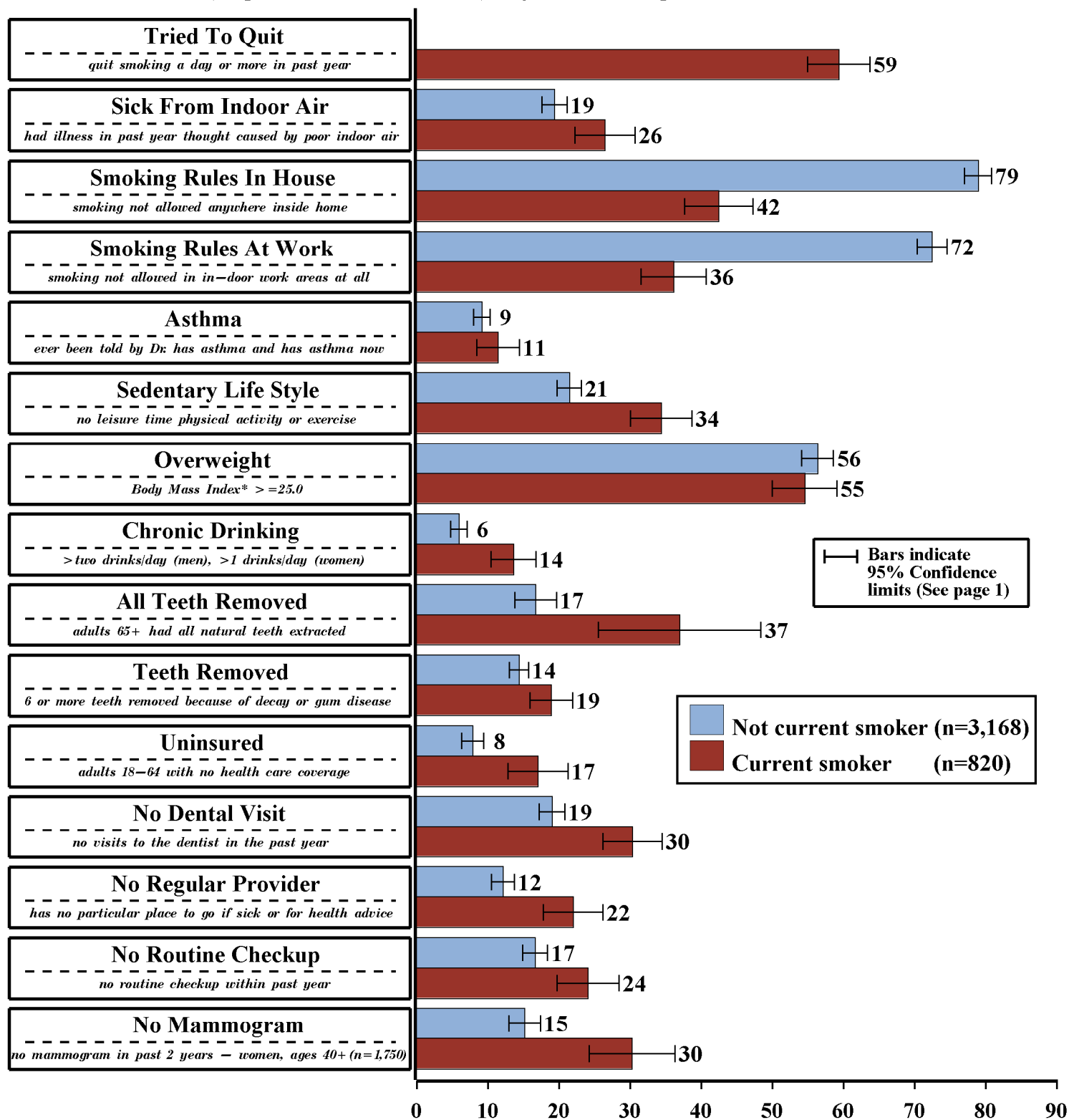
Figure 1
Current Smoking Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) within demographic subgroups -- 2004



Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)

Current smoker: Respondents that reported having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke

Figure 2
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
 (Ages 18 and older) by smoking status -- 2004

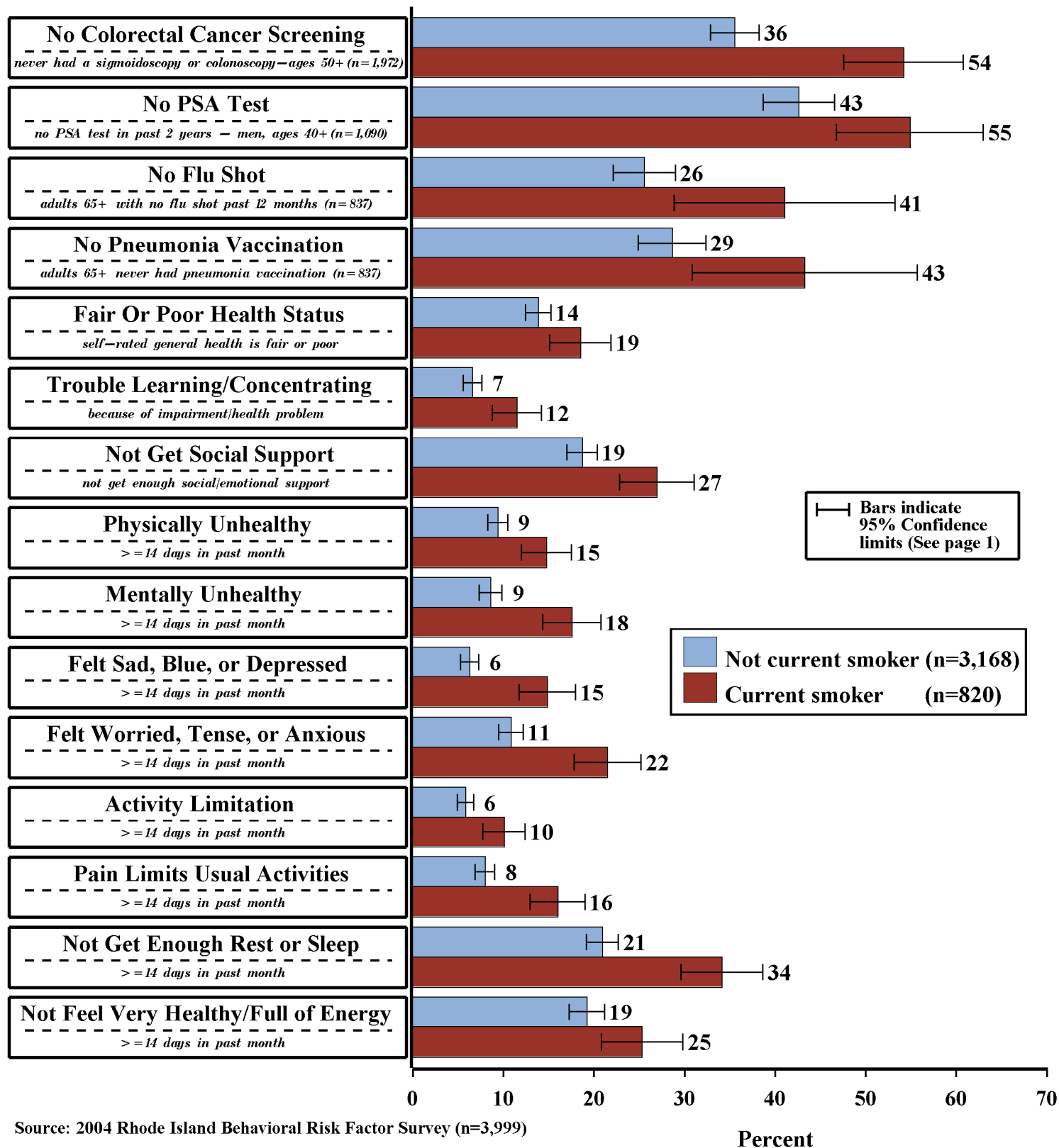


Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)

* Body Mass Index = weight in kilograms / (height in meters)²

Percent

Figure 3
Health Risks Among Rhode Island Adults
(Ages 18 and older) by smoking status -- 2004



Source: 2004 Rhode Island Behavioral Risk Factor Survey (n=3,999)